

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY

Germany (French Zone)

DATE DISTR. 9 April 1948

SUBJECT

Shoe Industry in Pirmasens

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1. Until the end of 1947, the Pirmasens shoe industry was allowed leather and raw materials for the production of 320,000 pairs of shoes per month. In practice, it received at most three-fourths of its allotment.
2. For the first quarter of 1947, the production program for new shoes was reduced to 160,000 pairs, or fifty percent. In order to keep the production level the same as in 1947, however, an additional 160,000 pairs of shoes were to be produced from unfinished shoes available in the factories. Raw material for this additional quota was supposed to be made available in sufficient quantities. Because of insufficient deliveries of raw materials for both new and partly-finished shoes, at the end of February 1948 the shoe industry of Pirmasens had fulfilled only half of its production quota for the first quarter of 1948. The result was an increasing number of dismissals of shoe workers.
3. Hopes that full production of new shoes could be resumed in the second quarter of 1948 will apparently not be realized, and it is fairly certain that delivery of raw materials will not be improved. By the beginning of the second quarter, also, most of the unfinished shoes available will have been finished, and production will therefore decrease in this line likewise. Additional dismissals of shoe workers are to be expected.
4. Both manufacturers and workers feel considerable uneasiness over the situation. Among the workers, the Communists are actively trying to gain ground from the general difficulties.

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